

*Charles Pettigrew to Charles Moore*¹²³

A&H

Bertie 2^d. Nov^r. 1795D^r. Sir,

Had your Letter 5th of August arrived in time, & had I been able to attend at the general Episcopal Convention at Philad^a., I would with pleasure have complied with your *request*, respecting the *Papers* you allude to, had the Rev^d. M^r. Bisset been at Convention; & shall always be happy render your Parish any service that may lie in my power. But the truth is, I did not attend. I set out with that intention, & with a view of taking the Packet from Norfolk to Baltimore. But before I had got more than two thirds of the way to Norfolk, such were the reports w^{ch}. met me, of the prevalence of the yallow fever in that Town, & the great mortallity that attended it, that I Judged it the most prudent to return—I will however, keep your Letter, & should I attend at the next gen^l. Convention I will endeavour to negotiate the affair agreeable to your Directions.

At our state episcopal Convention, when choice was made of one of the Clergy for Consecration to the Office of a Bishop,—We also passed a Constitution for the regulation & government of the Church in this State. The 7th Article is as follows—

“That as speedily as possible after it is known in each County, what numbers are desirous of becoming Members of the protestant episcopal Church, they be convened, & Elect a Vestry, consisting of 12 persons, to form the people into a regular Society, & to produce a Clergyman who has been regularly ordained according to the rites & ceremonies of y^e s^d. Church, to officiate among them as frequently as it may be in his power, & duely to administer the holy Ordinances. And the Vestry shall be chosen annually.”

Permit me now Sir to request you in behalf of our declining Church (if of the episcopal persuasion) to have a vestry Chosen in your County, of such as profess themselves Churchmen, agreeably to the above Article. You will also I hope recommend it to those of the next Counties, as opportunity may serve. By this means you will fall into an Organized State, & may procure supplies, also place Readers in your Chapels, whereby you will be known from those of differing persuasions by solemnly

¹²³ Charles Moore, the postmaster at Mt. Tirzah, has not been further identified.